

10,647819



US006279298B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Thomas et al.

(10) Patent No.: US 6,279,298 B1
(45) Date of Patent: *Aug. 28, 2001

(54) **FILL-THROUGH-THE-TOP PACKAGE AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING THE SAME**

2,506,311 5/1950 Moore .

(List continued on next page.)

(75) Inventors: **Toby R. Thomas, Pittsford; Samuel D. Aversa, Farmington; John D. Athans, Victor, all of NY (US)**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

0 109 793	3/1987 (EP) .
0 276 554	8/1988 (EP) .
0 302 144	2/1989 (EP) .
0 239 319	9/1990 (EP) .
0 374 539	8/1993 (EP) .
1 350 126	12/1963 (FR) .
2 613 326	10/1988 (FR) .
1 546 433	5/1979 (GB) .
2 080 412	2/1982 (GB) .
2 085 519	4/1982 (GB) A44B/19/62
2 130 173	5/1984 (GB) .
2 268 721	1/1994 (GB) .
2 268 731	1/1994 (GB) .
57 105248	12/1980 (JP) .
WO 9529604	11/1995 (WO) .
WO 9535046	12/1995 (WO) .
WO 9535047	12/1995 (WO) .
WO 9535048	12/1995 (WO) .
WO 99/24325	5/1999 (WO) B65B/61/18

(73) Assignee: **Pactiv Corporation, Lake Forest, IL (US)**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 09/422,510

(22) Filed: Oct. 21, 1999

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 09/373,312, filed on Aug. 12, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,071,011.

(51) Int. Cl.⁷ B65B 1/04; B65B 61/18

(52) U.S. Cl. 53/412; 53/469; 53/459; 53/133.4; 53/139.2; 53/284.7; 53/562; 53/570; 493/213

(58) Field of Search 53/133.2, 133.3, 53/133.4, 139.2, 562, 570, 284.7, 410, 412, 455, 459, 469; 493/213, 214, 215, 927

References Cited**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Re. 27,174	9/1971 Ausnit .
Re. 33,674	8/1991 Uramoto .
Re. 34,554	3/1994 Ausnit .
Re. 34,905	4/1995 Ausnit 53/412
Re. 34,906	4/1995 Tamaki et al. 123/399
1,992,152	2/1935 Yeates .
2,064,432	12/1936 Keidel .

Primary Examiner—John Sipos

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jenkens & Gilchrist

ABSTRACT

A fill-through-the-top reclosable package includes first and second opposing body panels joined to each other along a pair of sides and a bottom bridging the pair of sides. The package is provided with a reclosable fastener extending along a package top disposed opposite the bottom. The fastener includes first and second opposing tracks. The first track includes a male profile, while the second track includes a female profile adapted to releasably interlock with the male profile. To provide tamper evidence, the first and second tracks may be joined to each other along an area of weakness. When making the package, the first track is first attached to the first panel, the package is filled with a product via a fill opening between the second track and the second panel, and then the second track is attached to the second panel.

16 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets